

WILFORD AND MATILDA
HANSENA PETERSON
NELSON



Wilford Nelson was born May 12, 1859,
at Provo, Utah, a son of Henry and Sarah

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called "If" Nelson

Ann Nelson. He married Matilda Hansena Peterson on Dec. 1, 1881, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Matilda was born April 19, 1863, at Bornholm, Denmark, a daughter of Hanse Peter and Christina Margaret Peterson. Matilda died February 18, 1907, at Daniel. He married Sadie Moore on Aug. 23, 1911. She was born February 4, 1874, at Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, N. C., daughter of Theophilus and Catherine Proctor Moore. She died February 11, 1924, and Wilford died May 7, 1933 at Daniel.

In 1864 Wilford moved with his parents to Heber and in 1874 to Buysville.

Matilda's mother had joined the LDS Church in Denmark, so when Matilda was five years old her mother sailed for America, bringing Matilda and her sister, Caroline Petronella, who was born Oct. 6, 1860, with her and leaving her husband behind, for he had not accepted the new religion. For nine long weeks, in 1868, they were on the water. During this time Petronella died and was buried at sea. After arriving in America, Matilda and her mother started across the plains for Salt Lake, but as they neared their destination, the mother became ill and died at the last camping place before they reached Salt Lake, so her body was brought to Salt Lake and buried September 5, 1868.

This left Matilda an orphan in a strange land and among people who could not speak her language. However, a very kind woman, Mrs. Sarah Duel, had just previous to this time offered to take the next orphan who arrived with the pioneer companies, so Matilda was given to Mrs. Duel. Sarah Duel divorced Duel and married William T. Thacker and they moved to Heber, then to Buysville, bringing Matilda with them.

Wilford Nelson, known by his friends as "If" Nelson, was recognized as the outstanding fly fisherman in the western United States, starting at five years of age fishing Utah Lake and Provo River. When six years old the family moved to Heber Valley and here he fished using silver side minnows and bullheads rather than angleworms. One summer day, as he was sitting on the river bank, he saw the trout rising to the surface of the water and going down again. As he watched he discovered they were taking the live flies and bugs that rested on top of the later. He watched them all day, taking special notice of the time they were jumping for flies and bugs. This is how he got the

idea of making artificial flies to fish with. For 60 years he made a business of making these flies.

He was a skilled trapper and made his own animal "scents" to help attract animals to his traps. When the federal government started to hire trappers for the control of rodents and predators, he and his son, Wilford Osmond (Ozzie) were two of the first men to be hired in the western United States for this work.

On November 1, 1915, he was sent out to Ibapah, on the Nevada line between Utah and Nevada, where there was a bad outbreak of rabies in the coyotes. Here again he did a very creditable job.

In these lines of employment he made a good living for those times, for his family which lived on 20 acres of land in Buysville. The children were taught to work, and they all worked in the Church.

She was the mother of : Hyrum, Christine Margaret, Matilda Ann (Anita), Mary Emily, Elfie, Wilford Osmond, Carl Henry, Caroline, Minnie Jenette and Nymphus Alma.

Sadie arrived in Utah September 1, 1901, and lived in Provo. Wilford and Sadie had one daughter, Sadie Mae.

During his last years Wilford lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Mary Orgill. He was an Elder in the Church.



